

**PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
CHAPTER 103**

Statutory Authority: 1976 Code Section 58-3-140

103-___ Protection of Customer Data

A. For purposes of this section, “customer data” means data about a customer’s electric, natural gas, water, or wastewater usage; information that is made available as part of an advanced metering infrastructure; and personal information in the possession of electric, natural gas, water or wastewater public utilities, including the name, account number, billing history, address of the customer, email address, telephone number, and fax number.

B. Customer Consent:

(1) A public utility shall not share, disclose, or otherwise make accessible to any third party a customer’s data, except as provided in subdivision (e) or upon the consent of the customer.

(2) A public utility shall not sell a customer’s data or any other personally identifiable information for any purpose without the consent of the customer.

(3) The utility or its contractors shall not provide an incentive or discount to the customer for accessing the customer’s data without the prior consent of the customer.

(4) Before requesting a customer’s consent to disclosure of customer data, a utility shall be required to make a full disclosure to the customer of the nature and scope of the data proposed to be disclosed, the identity of the proposed recipient and the intended use of the data by the proposed recipient.

C. If a utility contracts with a third party for a service that allows a customer to monitor the customer’s usage, and that third party uses the data for a secondary commercial purpose, the contract between the utility and the third party shall provide that the third party prominently discloses that secondary commercial purpose to the customer and secures the customer’s consent to the use of his or her data for that secondary commercial purpose prior to the use of the data.

D. A utility shall use reasonable security procedures and practices to protect a customer’s unencrypted consumption data from unauthorized access, destruction, use, modification, disclosure, and to prohibit the use of the data for a secondary commercial purpose not related to the primary purpose of the contract without the customer’s consent.

E. Exceptions to Sections A through D:

(1) This section shall not preclude a utility from using customer aggregate consumption data for analysis, reporting, or program management if all information has been removed regarding the individual identity of a customer.

(2) This section shall not preclude a utility from disclosing a customer's data to a third party for system, grid, or operational needs, or the implementation of demand response, energy management, or energy efficiency programs, provided that the utility has required by contract that the third party implement and maintain reasonable security procedures and practices appropriate to the nature of the information, to protect the personal information from unauthorized access, destruction, use, modification, or disclosure, and prohibits the use of the data for a secondary commercial purpose not related to the primary purpose of the contract without the customer's prior consent to that use.

(3) This section shall not preclude a utility from disclosing customer data where necessary to provide safe and reliable service and as required or permitted under state or federal law or by an order of the commission.

F. If a customer chooses to disclose his or her data to a third party that is unaffiliated with, and has no other business relationship with, the utility, the utility shall not be responsible for the security of that data, or its use or misuse.

G. Utility Guidelines:

- (1.) Each electrical, natural gas, water or wastewater utility shall develop and seek Commission approval of guidelines for implementation of this section.
- (2.) The electrical, natural gas, water or wastewater utility shall file its initial guidelines within 180 days for Commission approval. The guidelines should, at minimum, address the following:
 - a. Customer notice and awareness – practices to explain policies and procedures to customers.
 - b. Customer choice and consent – process that allow the customer to control access to customer data including processes for customers to monitor, correct or limit the use of customer data.
 - c. Customer data access – procedures for use of customer data, purpose for collection, limitations of use of customer data and process for customer non-standard requests.
 - d. Data quality and security procedures and measures – procedures for security and methods to aggregate or anonymize data.
 - e. Utility Accountability and Auditing – reporting of unauthorized disclosures, training protocol for employees, periodic evaluations, self-enforcement procedures and penalties